(ii) Deployment of new technology like selective mining with the use of surface Miners in various open cast mines.

(iii) Adopting Controlled blasting methods for reducing the possibility of admixture of coal with over burden materials, improving fragmentation of coal etc.

(iv) Picking of shales/stones before crushing and screening most of the coal produced by CIL in the Coal Handling Plants, thereby improving the quality.

Upward Growth in coal production

343. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. has reported upward growth in Coal Production in 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far this compares with the previous corresponding period; and

(d) the action plan of the Coalfields to further boost its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) Production of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during 2004-05 (Provisional) was 66.08 million tonnes as compared to the production of 60.05 million tonnes during 2003-04.

(c) The increase in production of MCL during 2004-05 was about 10% more than the production during 2003-04.

(d) Coalfield-wise production target for MCL for 2005-06 and 2006-07 has been set at 72 million tonnes and 80 million tonnes respectively. Coalfield-wise action plan for the production growth is as under:

(figures in million tonnes)

Coalfield	2005-06	2006-07
Ib Vally	23.10	25.60
Talcher	48.90	54.40
TOTAL:	72.00	80.00